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**NEW ENGLAND AND MID-ATLANTIC: RB Advertising Representatives Inc.,
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**FUTURE CONVENTIONS**

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, June 28–July 1, 2018

Walt Disney World, Florida, USA, June 27–30, 2019

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, June 18–21, 2020

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, June 24–27, 2021

**KIWANIS (ISSN 0162-5276) is published monthly except February, May, July and November by Kiwanis International. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kiwanis, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268-3196. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN and additional mailing offices. (CPC Pub Agreement #40030511) Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Kiwanis, 2835 Kew Drive, Windsor, ON N8T 3B7. Member’s annual subscription is US$8. Nonmembers may subscribe for US$12 per year.

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**MAGAZINE NEWSSTAND**

**NEWS**

New Key Club, CKI leaders; Kiwanis family weeks; protect our youth; trustee-designate passes; honoring U.S. veterans; story update; 2017-18 leaders elected; award program for Key Clubs; another MNT victory; signature winners; two bylaws amended

**SHOWCASE**

From fable to table; worth a thousand words; a reason to play; feeding frenzy; crisis situation; warm hearts, warm heads; birthdays

**BACK PAGE**

Making the cut

**FEATURES**

12 **ALL THAT JAZZ**
New Orleans-style music takes center stage at a fundraising festival in Switzerland.

20 **SITUATION CRITICAL**
Understanding the opioid crisis and what your club can do to help your community.

24 **CONVENTION RECAP**
Kiwanis, CKI and Key Club convention coverage.

30 **TIME AFTER TIME**
From softball support to lunchroom buddies, mentorships make a lasting impact when Kiwanians commit to long-term partnerships.

**< ON THE COVER**

**ALL THAT JAZZ**
New Orleans-style music takes center stage at a fundraising festival in Switzerland.

Photo by Kasey Jackson

Page 12

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

SEPTEMBER 2017 • VOLUME 102, NUMBER 6

**DEPARTMENTS**

4 **VOICES**
President’s Message; Executive Perspective; Letters

8 **NEWS**

20 **SITUATION CRITICAL**
Understanding the opioid crisis and what your club can do to help your community.

24 **CONVENTION RECAP**
Kiwanis, CKI and Key Club convention coverage.

30 **TIME AFTER TIME**
From softball support to lunchroom buddies, mentorships make a lasting impact when Kiwanians commit to long-term partnerships.
I was a new mentor for a little 10-year-old girl and we were both nervous. Starting any relationship is always tricky. You have to find out what the other person likes and dislikes and basically what makes them tick. It didn’t take long, and we found we both like animals, ice cream, swimming and people. As we talked about all the good things in our lives, we thought it might be good to write those down. We came up with a plan: a gratitude journal we called The Glad Book.

Each weekly session began with a new entry in our Glad Books. We started with one thing and eventually made it to 10 things. As we got comfortable with challenging ourselves with our Glad Books, we added a twist. We would write a weekly thank-you card to someone who had made a positive impact in our lives. And what fun we had with that. Our relationship grew, as did our levels of gratitude.

Gratitude is a powerful thing. It focuses attention on what we have in our lives instead of what we don’t, and it makes us stop and appreciate those around us. Being grateful gives us a warm feeling inside and helps us share that feeling with others. A small thank-you goes a long way.

We can do the same thing in Kiwanis. Start your Glad Book today. What 10 things are you grateful for today? Go ahead. I’ll wait. Now pick one and write a thank-you card. Again, I’ll wait. Do you feel better already?

What’s in my Glad Book? My list includes serving as your Kiwanis International president. It’s been fun, heartwarming, heart-melting, life-affirming, challenging, invigorating and inspiring. And my thank-you card? That goes to each of you, with heartfelt thanks from the First Gent—my husband, Gus—and me. Thanks for leaving your positive handprints in our lives.

So what’s in your Glad Book?
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FROM THE BLOGOSPHERE
Readers of Kiwanis magazine’s blog respond to features from the June/July 2017 issue. Join the conversations at kiwanismagazine.org.

DIY MEALS
Fabulous program. We need to do this in many locations.

Patsy Page
This is really awesome. I wish I could go to Tokyo and attend one. Cooking classes are a great idea.

Ashleigh
Great idea for worldwide project.

Linnett Thompson-Hyatt
Kiwanis Club of Stony Hill, Jamaica

BREAKTHROUGH
Will this program be offered again in January 2018?

Cheryl Henleben
Kiwanis Club of Historic Roswell, Georgia.

Editor’s note: Currently, two Breakthrough events are planned for January 1–7, 2018, with 40 students in Miami, Florida, and 20 students in New Orleans, Louisiana. Watch for more information at keyclub.org/breakthrough.
Reach out to our partners. And reach more children.

Your club changes children’s lives. When you partner with organizations that have similar missions, you make a difference in even more lives. So reach out to a Kiwanis partner. Create a new bond. Increase your visibility. And enhance your club’s next signature project. Go to kiwanis.org/SPtoolkit.

Have suggestions for other Kiwanis partners? Let us know at partners@kiwanis.org.
WHAT'S HAPPENING
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

KIWANIS FAMILY WEEKS
Beginning in the 2017-18 administrative year, each member of the Kiwanis family will have its own week.
Instead of designating November as Kiwanis Family Month, each entity will be celebrated as follows:
• CKI Week: the week of Kiwanis One Day, which is the fourth Saturday of October
• Key Club Week: first full week of November
• K-Kids Week: last full week of February
• Aktion Club Week: first full week of March
• Builders Club Week: third week of March

NEW KEY CLUB, CKI LEADERS
Circle K and Key Club elected new leaders while the two Service Leadership Programs conducted their annual conventions in San Antonio, Texas, this past July. William Sims, of the Homewood High School Key Club in Alabama, will serve as 2017-18 Key Club International president, and Justin Crofoot (right), of the University of Alabama CKI Club, will serve as 2017-18 Circle K International president.
This past July, the Tennessee District Attorney’s office reported that all charges had been dropped against two teens who had been accused of starting wildfires in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Kiwanis magazine published an article about the disaster, “Burn Notice,” in its August 2017 issue.

The United States observes Veterans Day on November 11. Now is the perfect time to plan a special project to honor those who are serving or have served in the military.

Kiwanis partner Atlas Flags provides special pricing and programs that can help your club with fundraising and community service.

Visit kiwanis.atlasflags.com

Registration is now open for the International Youth Protection Symposium. The symposium will be hosted by Kiwanis International and the Boy Scouts of America and will be held October 17-18 in Indianapolis. Anyone working with youth will benefit from participating in the symposium. Register and learn more at iyps.kiwanis.org.

Peter Kimberley, a Kiwanis International trustee-designate, passed away en route home after the Kiwanis International convention in Paris. The Waverly, Victoria, Australia, Kiwanian served as Australia District governor, Kiwanis Asia-Pacific chair and The Eliminate Project campaign regional director.

He is survived by his wife, Sue and his children and grandchildren.
AWARD PROGRAM FOR KEY CLUBS

Kiwanis partner Nickelodeon has launched its HALO Movement program. Key Clubs can apply for funding from US$100–$2,500 to support service projects that embody the spirit of helping others. Nickelodeon believes if everyone contributes to helping and leading others, we can collectively create one big movement to effect change. Nickelodeon wants to reflect kids’ desires to improve their world, and give them the necessary tools for action. Visit WeHalo.com to find out more. Encourage your Key Clubbers to apply online at facebook.com/keyclub beginning September 1, 2017.

2017–18 TEAM ELECTED

The Illinois-Eastern Iowa District’s Jim Rochford was confirmed as 2017-18 president at the 102nd Annual Kiwanis International Convention, and the Belgium-Luxembourg District’s Daniel Vigneron was elected in a four-candidate race for vice president. Here are all election results:

- **President**: Jim Rochford, Peoria, Illinois, USA
- **President-elect**: Florencio C. “Poly” Lat, Metro Manila, the Philippines
- **Vice president**: Daniel Vigneron, Howald, Luxembourg
- **US and Pacific Canada Region trustees**: Greg Beard, Alexandria, Louisiana, USA; Charles R. “Chuck” Gugliuzza, Homestead, Florida, USA; Richard “Dick” Olmstead, Lancaster, California, USA
- **Europe Region trustee**: Paul Inge Paulsen, Florvåg, Norway (elected at the 2017 Kiwanis International-European Convention, also in July)
- **At-large trustee**: Ernest Schmid, Einode, Austria

ANOTHER MNT VICTORY

Ethiopia—one of the poorest, most populous nations in the world—has eliminated MNT. Only 17 countries remain where this deadly disease threatens mothers and their future babies. Help Kiwanis finish the fight by visiting theeliminateproject.org/give.

SIGNATURE WINNERS

Winners of the 2017 Kiwanis Signature Projects Contest are: Gold, Des Moines, Iowa’s Miracle League at Principal Park; silver, Massapequa, New York’s drug initiative; and bronze, Wan Hua, Taiwan’s Children’s Film Festival. Learn more at www.kiwanis.org/2017signature.projects.

TWO BYLAWS AMENDED

2017 convention delegates removed a provision that allowed district background checks to be considered equivalent to those conducted by Kiwanis International. They also provided a way to resolve tie votes in elections. Learn more at kiwanis.org/convention/2017/amendments.
Support your Key Clubbers as they travel with their club to the Dominican Republic on their own exclusive Key Club service trip this school year. They have the chance to work alongside the welcoming Dominican community on infrastructure and water quality improvements, as well as local education enrichment programs, while immersing themselves in island culture.

Visit rusticpathways.com/keyclub to get involved.
It’s 8 a.m. in Zofingen, Switzerland. It’s early July, the morning sun already doing its job as the heat rises from the cobblestone streets. It’s sure to be a long day. But 300 volunteers are prepared. Smiling. Greeting each other with a friendly “Guten Morgen,” a nod and a handshake before hustling off to get some work done. There’s plenty to do.

Kiwanis members from 11 clubs in three divisions are on the ground here for the annual New Orleans Meets in Zofingen—a music festival that brings jazz, blues and more to this tiny walled city founded in 1201. Three stages will offer live music beginning in the evening, but before that, there are tents to pop, foods to cook, beer and wine to chill, sounds to check, lights to focus and gates to assemble. Everyone has an assigned job—and things are going just as planned. “Perfect,” says Kiwanian Markus Lanz, a two-way radio in one hand and a cell phone in the other. He’s in charge of security. He’s waiting for about 20 security guards to arrive, so he heads off to check on their status. Later, he’s seen zipping around on a scooter.
He also points out a “secret passage” between buildings, which will come in handy later when crowds make it tight to maneuver. It’s the quickest way to get between the stages. Insider information helps on a day like this.

Now in its 21st year, the Zofingen festival has become the place to be. By the time the first acts hit the stages, there are almost 7,000 people in the crowd. And that’s saying a lot for a Monday night (and a school night for the kids) in a city with a population of only a little more than 11,000. Almost everyone is here.

With the festival underway, the jobs have changed. Kiwanians are now taking tickets. They’re serving beverages. Carving meat. Handling money. Preparing food for the musicians. The list goes on.

Papa’s Finest Boogie-Band is on the main stage and bringing down the house. Dancers from Pink Cadillac are jumpin’ and jivin’ as the crowd claps and taps along to the beat. Children stare in awe at the flurry of color spinning before them as men lift women into the air, skirts upended under the evening sky. A little boy tackles a festival favorite: New Orleans Mega Spiess mit Burli, which translates loosely to meat on a stick with a piece of bread skewered on the end. It’s delicious.

As darkness approaches, the temperatures have cooled, but things are heating up. One must fight one’s way to the front of the stage to witness Sharrie Williams, a powerhouse of a voice described as “the princess of rockin’ gospel blues.” She’s here from the United States, and she’s attracted quite an impressive crowd from all walks of life. An older couple is dancing together under the stars while a young man with long hair pumps his fist in the air and dances like nobody’s watching—though he’s right at the front of the stage.

All of this not only is for a good time, but also a good cause. Ticket and concession sales from this and previous festivals have paid for many Kiwanis projects, including a sports club for the handicapped, a recreation center, theater workshops for kids and teens, a football camp and Model Club fundraising for the Eliminate Project.
Between 2014 and 2016, an Ebola outbreak in West Africa killed more than 11,000 people, drawing intense media attention and generating fear worldwide, despite the disease’s limited reach. Today’s heroin crisis gets plenty of press too, yet many people remain nonplussed—despite the fact that this epidemic impacts far too many lives.

“The growth of this crisis,” says Carlton Hall of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), “has impacted every segment, every corner of our society.”

Nowhere is this more evident than in the United States, which accounts for 25 percent of drug-related deaths worldwide, the United Nations recently reported. In 2016, some 59,000 people in the States died from a drug overdose—equivalent to a commercial airliner carrying more than 150 people crashing every day for an
entire year. Drug overdoses are a key reason why life expectancy in the U.S. is declining for the first time since 1993.

The crisis is so widespread that it’s likely nearly every Kiwanis community has experienced a heroin-related death.

Drug-related epidemics aren’t new to the U.S. The 1960s saw Vietnam war veterans using heroin to cope; in the 1980s, crack cocaine swept through the nation. But today’s opioid resurgence reaches a whole new level.

“This crisis totally eclipses the other two,” says Hall, the deputy director of CADCA’s National Coalition Institute. “It has a feeder system that is unlike anything we’ve ever experienced before: the misuse and the abuse of prescription drugs.”

In 2015, U.S. physicians prescribed some 300 million prescriptions for opioids, enough to give everyone in the country a one-month supply. Some of those recipients become addicted, and when refills run out, they’ll turn to the streets to buy pills. Soon, though, they discover that heroin is readily available and much less expensive to purchase. At least 80 percent of heroin addicts were first exposed to opioids through prescription painkillers, according to the (U.S.) National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Sadly, youth aren’t immune. “Many of those impacted are children who have either been prescribed opioids for a sports injury or a dental procedure or have been introduced to pain pills by a friend or family member for recreational use,” says Pat Aussem, parent partner with the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids.

Other youth must deal with an addicted family member; some have witnessed overdoses by family and friends.

“A history of familial substance misuse is one of the greatest factors for substance misuse by a child,” Aussem says. “Then there are the youngest among us, children born with neonatal abstinence syndrome as a result of their mother’s opioid use disorder. In 2012, over 21,000 babies were diagnosed with this condition.”

The numbers are daunting, but they don’t have to be destiny. Kiwanis clubs can make a difference.

“The beautiful thing about Kiwanis clubs is that you are everywhere,” Hall says. “You have the opportunity to engage in solution-making, problem-solving, at a very local level. And we believe a community response at the local level is the best way of addressing these issues.”
Here are 11 ways Kiwanis clubs can help:

1. **Join your community’s anti-drug coalition.** Visit [cadca.org](http://cadca.org) to find one near you. No coalition close by? Start your own; advice can be found on the same website. CADCA works in more than 20 nations.

2. **Educate your members.** Over a period of four or five meetings, schedule a series of speakers who can provide key perspectives on the crisis. Hear insights from a law enforcement officer, paramedic, social worker, recovering addict, prosecutor, etc.

3. **Educate the public.** For adults, host a screening of “Out of Reach,” a teen-made documentary spotlighting prescription drug abuse among youth. For high school students and young adults, show “Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opioid Addict.” Contact the Partnership for Drug Free Kids ([drugfree.org](http://drugfree.org)) or the FBI ([fbi.gov](http://fbi.gov)), respectively, for more information. The Partnership also offers links to community education presentations that can be localized ([drugfree.org/heroin](http://drugfree.org/heroin)).

4. **Partner with your Key Club or CKI club to host an opioid prevention and education session.** “Often, younger people can help adults understand what’s really going on and reasons why kids choose to use—or not use—alcohol and drugs,” says Kevin Collins, director of Parent and Community Support Services for the Partnership.

5. **Sponsor an evidence-based prevention program for at-risk youth.** The Royal Canadian Mounted Police ([rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://rcmp-grc.gc.ca)) offers lesson plans that teach students how to recognize risks and develop personal strategies. In the U.S., established curricula—such as the Strengthening Families Program ([strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org](http://strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org)) for elementary and middle school children or Project Towards No Drug Abuse ([ndtsc.edu](http://ndtsc.edu)) for high school students—focus on decision-making abilities, coping mechanisms, self-esteem building, leadership skills and more.

6. **Donate to a youth recovery center.** Such facilities provide in- or out-patient services and tools to teens fighting substance abuse and addiction.

7. **Help children of addicts.** “If other family members use opioids, children can be at risk of being removed from the home by child protective services,” says Partnership for Drug-Free Kids’ Pat Aussem. Contact your community’s child welfare agency to see how your members can help, whether it’s with money, meals or mentoring.

8. **Help first responders save lives.** Donate funds that law enforcement officers, firefighters and others can use to purchase Narcan kits. Narcan—or Naloxone—blocks or reverses the effects of opioids, literally bringing overdose victims back from the brink of death.

9. **Sponsor a Narcan training class.** In some locations, Narcan can be purchased without a prescription by those concerned about a family member or friend’s addiction. Work with your health department to teach people how to properly administer this lifesaving medicine.

10. **Join a takeback event.** Keep opioid medications out of youths’ hands by providing or promoting a safe place to dispose of unwanted/unused/expired prescriptions. Contact your law enforcement agency to host a community event.

11. **Let families know help is available.** The Partnership’s toll-free hotline (1-800-DRUGFREE) and chat service ([drugfree.org/helpline](http://drugfree.org/helpline)) walk parents through their concerns. “That can be anything,” Collins says, “from ‘How do I keep my kid from starting to use’ to ‘How do I find treatment’ to ‘How do I support my kid’s recovery?’” The Centre on Substance Use and Addiction ([cclt.ca](http://cclt.ca)) lists provincial helpline numbers.
KIWANIANS FROM AROUND THE WORLD GATHERED IN PARIS FOR THE 2017 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.
PHOTOS BY LESLIE LAUNAY MENETRIER

Street lamps glowing golden along the Seine. Bastille Day fireworks sparkling above the glittering Eiffel Tower. Sunrise at the Arc de Triomphe. Sunset at Notre Dame Cathedral.

*Lights in the City of Light.*

The words of Ruby Bridges, who in 1960 at the age of six became the first black student to attend an all-white school in New Orleans, Louisiana: “We have to always, always choose the right thing. And in doing that, we will set an example for the next generation, our kids.”

*Words of enlightenment in the birth city of the Age of Enlightenment.*

Bridges spoke those words during the opening session of the 102nd Annual Kiwanis International Convention this past July in Paris. More than 2,000 members and guests were in attendance, reuniting with friends, electing leaders, learning, dancing, having fun.

Exploring and enjoying the City of Light.
We danced while Elvis and Beatles lookalikes performed. We debated and adopted two bylaws changes. We elected new leaders. And we shared the limelight, presenting the World Service Medal to our Eliminate Project ally UNICEF (left), and our Humanitarian Award to Ruby Bridges (right) and her elementary school teacher, Barbara Henry.
CIRCLE K AND KEY CLUB MET IN SAN ANTONIO FOR THEIR ANNUAL CONVENTIONS.
PHOTOS BY CURTIS BILLUE | STORY BY SARAH MORELAND BYRNE

“Y’all don’t want to miss this!”

More than 1,000 Key Clubbers and 300 CKI members cheered, danced, listened, learned, laughed, served and were inspired in the heart of San Antonio, Texas, July 5–9.

Attendees heard from entrepreneurs, motivational speakers and global leaders like Neha Gupta, the 2014 International Children’s Peace Prize winner and founder of Empower Orphans. They also participated in workshops about leadership, fundraising and serving with Kiwanis-family partners and preferred charities.

CKI’s annual Large Scale Service Project focused on sustainability: More than 200 members braved nearly 100-degree-Fahrenheit temps to help San Antonio’s residents have access to safe parks and healthy food from the local food bank.

Next year, Key Club and CKI will again host concurrent conventions in the “Windy City”—Chicago, Illinois, July 4-8, 2018.
In the United States alone, one in three young people will grow up without a mentor, reports the National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR). Consider that there are nearly 74 million Americans under the age of 18, and the implications are staggering. Various studies show that kids with mentors have better school attendance, are less likely to use drugs and are more likely to go to college.

Being a mentor, however, isn’t a one-and-done proposition. It requires time, commitment and consistency. But as these three Kiwanis clubs discovered, the results can transform a child’s life.
It’s a windy May morning in east El Paso, Texas. Since 7 a.m., a group of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders has been on the sports fields of Horizon Middle School, the boys busy playing baseball, the girls focused on softball. Parents cheer and shout words of encouragement from the stands, and volunteers run a concession booth, ready with ice-cold water to offset the brutal heat that makes itself at home here.

This Saturday scene plays out regularly in countless cities and towns around the world—but this is not your typical Little League or parks and recreation program. This is BASE Play RBI, which is designed to serve youth struggling with academic and behavioral issues at school and with poverty—often extreme—at home.

More than half of the 250-plus BASE Play kids live in colonias, unincorporated communities along the Texas-Mexico border. Most colonias lack basic necessities that the kids in Little League games over in west El Paso take for granted: potable water, sewer systems, electricity, safe housing, paved roads.

“They’re coming from the most impoverished communities that we have in our county,” says David Hendrix, president of the Kiwanis Club of El Paso-Coronado, “so they don’t have the opportunity to excel in the classroom as some of our more prominent residents do. The kids that are having behavioral problems and the kids that aren’t doing well in the classroom educationally, there are reasons behind that.”

Four years ago, Kristi Borden, director of development for the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association, set out to address that opportunity gap at the request of the association’s founder and board president, Dwayne Aboud. Borden consulted with staff from the Clint Independent School District (ISD), which serves the majority of El Paso County’s 322 colonias. How, they wondered, could they best help these students? The result was BASE Play, which initially focused on fourth-graders in three ISD Title I elementary schools, which enroll a majority of children who live in poverty.

“Fourth grade is really a pivotal point,” Borden explains. “Kids become more independent and start making their own decisions. When this connection began, a fourth-grade student that got behind in reading or math had a one-in-10 chance of catching up by eighth grade. So we’re at an open gap in fourth grade, and if it’s not addressed, it never closes. It’s worse for kids living in poverty.”

In BASE Play, kids learn how to play baseball (boys) or softball (girls) through two three-hour supervised practices each week. On Saturdays, participants from all schools meet from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. to put their skills into play during actual games.

Kids need to complete their homework to attend practices, a major motivation. The students look forward to playing with their friends in a safe environment and getting a hot meal before being transported home by school-provided buses. Every three weeks, a BASE Play adult checks each child’s grades.

“If they’re failing in any classes, it gives us a three-week window to make sure we help them out,” says Letty Martinez, BASE Play coordinator and mother of a program participant, “whether it’s tutoring, after-school help, or anything of that nature to bring up their grades.”

The results: About 64 percent of students with the greatest challenges go from failing to passing grades during a 12-week season of play—a key development in a school district with a 47 percent high school graduation rate.

It’s precisely that level of accountability that drew Hendrix and his fellow Kiwanians to embrace the program early on—and encourage El Paso’s remaining three Kiwanis clubs to add their financial support.
“I always felt indifferent when we’d just write a check to a nonprofit, charitable organization,” Hendrix says. “You write the check, sometimes you’d get a thank-you, sometimes you wouldn’t. You’d never know where the money was being used. (With BASE Play) I can see the results. I can see where our money’s going. I can see the success of these kids in the classroom. Their grades are going up. Their behavioral issues are going away.”

The latter, Borden says, can be attributed to the crucial life lessons students learn along the way.

“Baseball and softball are the greatest team sports for that kind of instruction and mentoring. The classic is that you can fail seven times out of 10 and still have a great batting average. It teaches you persistence, and it teaches you that though you may have limitations, through diligence you can succeed.”

In 2016, Major League Baseball accepted the program into its Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) initiative, designed to teach baseball skills to underserved youth. Today, BASE Play RBI serves seven schools in three communities, with further expansion planned. While Hendrix calls the program’s rapid growth and measurable results “phenomenal,” the concept behind its success is simple, Borden says.

“It’s not that we have some brilliant strategy that transitions the kids to passing grades. It’s that we never fail them. The policy of the program is that we never cancel practice. So we’re always out there, and that seems to have the biggest impact on the kids. The magic bullet is that we show up.”
In 2015, the principal and vice principal of Appling County Primary School approached the Kiwanis Club of Baxley, Georgia, with a request for help. Children enrolled at this Title I school serving pre-K youth through second-graders face daunting challenges. Many live in single-parent homes. Some have a parent in prison. Most live below the poverty level. But the Appling administrators weren’t asking for an infusion of cash. What they needed, they said, was a commitment of time. The Kiwanians answered by forming the Baxley Kiwanis Club Mentoring Program—or, as participants refer to it, the M&Ms, mentors and mentees. Nine members signed up to be matched with a child for the duration of the school year, agreeing to meet, on average, once a week for one hour.

If successful, the match would continue through the child’s primary-school tenure. Club member Janine Hunter not only agreed to be a mentor; she volunteered to head up the program. She was matched with then first-grader Jariah, the oldest of a single mother’s five children. Hunter quickly learned, however, that her impact extended much further. “When you walk in the door, they all run to hug you—the whole class, not just your child,” she says. “Because they all want a hug, and they all want to be loved.”

Such seemingly simple interactions, so common to the Kiwanians, were new and nurturing for many of the mentees. One member bought a child his first-ever McDonald’s Happy Meal; many kids see their birthdays celebrated for the first time. An observant club member helped turn a child’s failing grades into passing ones by realizing the student needed eyeglasses, not special-ed classes. Greg Hudgins, president of the Baxter club, recalls buying a medium-size pizza to share with his mentee during lunch. They did share—Hudgins ate one slice, his first-grade student hungrily consumed the rest. “A lot of times, we take for granted so many things,” Hudgins says. “Just a meal. Just thinking, ‘Well, I’ve got a meal, no problem, and I’ll get another one at the next time to eat.’ These children we mentor, they don’t have that often. They may not know when their next meal will come.”

For the upcoming school year, 12 Kiwanians will be mentors, and Hunter and Hudgins hope to see others answer the call. “In life, we should slow down sometimes and realize that we’re so fortunate and so blessed, and others are not,” Hudgins says. “And we should take the time to give back to our communities and our children, to show them the love that they’ve never seen before.”
Talk about a long-term commitment. The Kiwanis Club of Monroe, Wisconsin, not only has worked with Big Brothers & Big Sisters for 32 years, it created and launched the county’s agency.

In 1983, Dave Mosher, then the club’s vice president and now its president, used survey tools provided by Kiwanis International to discover how club members could best help the community. Results showed an overwhelming need for mentoring programs for kids. Inspired, he set out to visit existing Big Brothers & Big Sisters agencies, one in Wisconsin, the other in Illinois.

“They both told me ‘Forget it. We’ve tried it. It will never work in Monroe,’” recalls Mosher. “So that was enough to get me excited about doing it.”

After completing a lengthy launching process, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Green County opened in 1985, and the Monroe Kiwanians have been an integral part ever since. The club supports the agency financially through two annual fundraisers: the national Big Brothers & Big Sisters Bowl for Kids’ Sake event and the club’s own yearly wine auction.

At least equally important is the Kiwanians’ dedication to serving as mentors. Big Brothers & Big Sisters offers two adult-child match programs: Community-Based Mentoring, in which adults commit to be an ongoing mentor for at least two years, and Lunch Buddies, which allows them to visit a mentee during lunch throughout the school term. Kiwanians have participated in both, sometimes forming lifelong friendships with the youth they mentor.

“We have a lot of pictures of matches where their ‘little’ was in their wedding or (the mentored youth) still stay in contact today and have families of their own,” says Shannon Kaszuba, executive director of Green County’s Big Brothers & Big Sisters.

Mosher became a lunch buddy mentor two years ago to his mentee, James, then seven.

“I have lunch with him, and we just chat,” he says. “Sometimes it’s just the little things, and you don’t even know you’re setting an example or planting a seed, but they look and they hear. It’s not until later that you realize that you really made a difference. You just never know what little thing might lead to a life-changing event.”

K
FROM FABLE TO TABLE
THE MORAL OF THIS KIWANIS TALE: FARMS CAN GROW HEALTHIER VEGGIES—AND KIDS.
STORY BY KIMIKO MARTINEZ • PHOTOS BY HELEN ARASE

Where 17-year-old Adrian Lara Garcia grew up in Mexico, farms were good for one thing: getting paid as a laborer. So when the Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton, California, came up with the idea for a farm at Kiwanis Youth Park, Lara certainly didn’t imagine he’d be learning about basic biology, the importance of eating organic foods or how to cook healthier meals. But that’s exactly what happened.

Yes, Lara single-handedly put up the fence at what’s become Fable Farms Fullerton—a beautiful farm-to-table space run by youth and community members. But he’s learned to flex a lot more skills than just his muscles.

“All of a sudden, these teens were caring for something,” says Michael Lozano, president of the Kiwanis Club of Fullerton and branch director of the Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton. “They now know what it is to nurture, take ownership and exuberate pride.”

Eighty Bug—a musician, artist, puppeteer and food blogger turned part-time instructor at the Boys & Girls Club and founder of Fable Farms—agrees.

“It was amazing watching the kids really learn to trust themselves,” she says. “The boys loved using the power tools. But when I took those tools out of their hands and gave them to the girls, they lit up, learning how to use a drill, put a bolt in, reinforce the bolsters. … But it wasn’t just constructing. And it wasn’t just having their hands in the dirt. It was the creation of it all. And that everything that comes out of the garden we get to take into the kitchen and cultivate something new.”
Lara already knew how to cook, but Bug taught him a different style. “To cook healthier, with more vegetables,” he says.

Those lessons have lasted. Almost a year later, he’s still eating healthier—snacking on fewer chips, for example, and putting apples in his quesadillas.

Michael Tutty, 12, has taken it a step further. He used his new skill to build a garden in his backyard.

“We are so blessed for this program,” Lozano says. “It shows teens another way to healthy lifestyles.”

*BGCA is a Kiwanis International Preferred Charity.*
SHOWCASE

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS
SOCIAL MEDIA SPREADS THE VIDEO STORY OF A BAHAMAS READING PROGRAM.
STORY BY CINDY CONOVER DASHNAW

One in four adults who live in the Bahamas cannot read the glossy brochures and tantalizing websites that have lured millions of tourists to this Caribbean paradise. Even in Nassau, the growing, cosmopolitan capital and one of just 116 cities worldwide to be designated a UNESCO Creative City, 10 percent of adults can’t read to their children.

Those statistics are unacceptable to the Kiwanis Club of Fox Hill, East Nassau, which has made a commitment to improve literacy rates in its neighborhoods. Kiwanis clubs in and around Nassau began addressing illiteracy several years ago with the creation of Reading in the Park.

But when the Fox Hill Kiwanis club joined the service learning project in April of this year, members wanted to share the experience more widely. Following a recent Reading in the Park event, they created a video to promote their efforts via WhatsApp and other social media platforms.

“A picture tells a story just as well as, if not better than, a lot of written words,” says club President Johnny Orville. “We decided a video about our reading project would show how we care about the children of the world.”

Using hashtags #kidsneedkiwanis, #readersmakeleaders and #readingrocks, the club shared images of more than 80 children coloring intently, hanging onto every word of a story being read aloud and reaching out eagerly as Kiwanis volunteers offered hamburgers and hot dogs.

Orville believes Reading in the Park promotes the importance of reading alongside the power of community.

“We hope this project will establish a creative and communal space for children and families to engage in cultural and civic activities,” he says.

“It was a smashing success.”
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WOULDN’T YOUR CLUB RATHER SPEND TIME AND MONEY LIKE THIS?

**Kiwanis Warehouse**  **Portalbuzz**  **Atlas Flags Inc.**
When Patrick Garvey’s wife passed away from breast cancer 18 years ago, he wanted to celebrate her life and help others who were diagnosed with the same disease. The idea to establish a soccer tournament came from a memory he had of his wife: About a month before she died, she watched their youngest son score an exciting goal during his soccer game.

Garvey and 12 of his friends founded the Christine Garvey Memorial Soccer Tournament in 2000, and the Kiwanis Club of Poquoson, Virginia, later took the fundraiser under its wing. Members have since raised US$160,000 from direct contributions and ticket sales and channel funds into two primary organizations.

“I knew I wanted to donate to a charity with a connection to breast cancer and found Beyond Boobs! through one of my fellow Kiwanians,” says Garvey. “They’re a breast health organization that supports women under 50 who are diagnosed with breast cancer, and a lot of the women they work with are still raising families.”

Garvey’s eldest daughter, who is 39, also was diagnosed with breast cancer. Following a bilateral mastectomy and chemotherapy, she’s doing great, Garvey reports. Like many others, his daughter has used Beyond Boobs! to find support groups and health-related information.

“When we reflect on our indispensable community partners, the Poquoson Kiwanis Club stands out for the enthusiasm, faithfulness and hard work that goes into this tournament, as well as the great spirit of the members,” says Mary Beth Gibson, Beyond Boobs!’s executive director and co-founder.

The second organization that receives funds, Edmarc Hospice for Children, treats kids with life-threatening diseases.

“Edmarc’s focus is to try to help the entire family unit,” says Garvey. “Before Edmarc existed, parents would have to spend all their time at the hospital, because that’s where the patient was getting treated. Edmarc tries to do everything in the home, including home health, medicine and chemo.”
When you love what you do, it shows. It shines in everything you accomplish. It rings out in everything you say. It’s the kind of passion that people want to share. So make your love for Kiwanis an inspiration to fellow club members and a reason for nonmembers to join. It all starts with what’s in your heart.

kiwanis.org/theformula
FEEDING FRENZY
A SMALL CLUB IN A SMALL TOWN DRAWS A BIG CROWD FOR ITS FOOD-PACKING PROJECT.

STORY BY JACK BROCKLEY

“A group from a long-term drug- and alcohol-addiction recovery program assisted with the heavy lifting, delivering bulk food supplies to each table.”

Stewartville is a small, growing town in southeastern Minnesota. Yet it has the power to make a difference in the lives of children in Haiti, Honduras, Mozambique and Uganda. And Stewartville too, of course.

The Stewartville Kiwanis Club is small itself, but its 14 members can recruit 344 volunteers to pack 142,776 meals for children in Haiti, Honduras, Mozambique and Uganda. And Stewartville too, of course.

For the past 14 years, Stewartville Kiwanians have called for help at their Kiwanis Food Pack, and every year, the event is a showcase of community unity. This past April, Randy Schmidt worked the project, and the Minnesota-Dakota District’s Division 7 lieutenant governor has a clear memory of the event: of tables laid out in rows, where assembly lines of hairnet-wearing adults and youth scooped rice, beans, soy, dried vegetables and spices into plastic bags. He remembers the faint scent of those
spices hanging in the air and the buzz of conversations that frequently was interrupted by cheers as groups celebrated another finished packet.

And he remembers and marvels at the community-wide involvement.

“Volunteers from Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K, Kiwanis and other organizations worked side-by-side, chatting and laughing as they packed meals,” Schmidt says. “A group from a long-term drug- and alcohol-addiction recovery program assisted with the heavy lifting, delivering bulk food supplies to each table.

... Five international exchange students shared that they would not have had this experience in their home towns. ... A team from the U.S. Army—a Kiwanis Vision Partner—loaded pallets to fill the trailer. ... Our local Rotary clubs joined us in celebration of International Week of Service (weekofservice.org).”

The Stewart, Minnesota-based organization Food for Kidz delivered thousands of the meals to Haiti, Honduras, Mozambique and Uganda. Another share of the packets—assembled by area Kiwanis-family members, Rotarians, recovering drug addicts, Army personnel, 4-H members, church groups and more—was reserved for local use.

“The Stewartville Kiwanis Club has been such a dedicated partner in the fight against hunger for many years,” says Linda Lovik, interim director at the Channel One Regional Food Bank in Rochester. “Just this spring, 23,760 packaged meals were donated to Channel One. When you multiply that by 14 years, the impact is astounding. We are incredibly grateful, as are the people we serve, for these packaged meals that we distribute through our food shelf and our mobile pantry program.”

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For the Kiwanis Club of Massapequa, New York, the opioid-addiction crisis hit close to home two years ago. A club member had a young family member struggling with the issue and asked fellow members to somehow address the growing epidemic. Robert Thompson, the club’s president at the time, jumped at the chance to spearhead what became the Massapequa Kiwanis Drug Initiative.

The eight-step program—now the club’s signature project—includes a comprehensive information booklet for parents/guardians, a related phone app and a crisis hotline staffed 24/7 by trained counselors. Thompson made these anonymous, reach-out-from-anywhere resources a priority to access those adults too timid or ashamed to ask for help in person.

“There’s such a stigma, such a denial, almost, about this issue,” he says. “Not in society, really, but in individual families. Because people don’t want to say, ‘Oh, my daughter is having this issue.’ They don’t want anybody to know.”

The club found a detailed booklet called “A Parent’s Guide for the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use,” created by the nonprofit Community of Concern, and printed copies. Working with Massapequa Public Schools, members attended key school functions to distribute the booklets to parents of students from elementary grades through high school.

The Partnership for Drug Free Kids, another nonprofit, had created a Drug Guide for Parents mobile-phone app with similar information, so the Kiwanians included a link on their newly revamped website. An electronic version of the Community of Concern booklet also is available there (massapequakiwanis.org/drug-initiative).

Thompson next wanted to include a link to an all-day, everyday drug-specific counseling hotline that would be staffed locally.

“I personally called 18 different hotlines that were supposedly 24/7,” he recalls. “None of them were.”

So the club worked with the Long Island Crisis Center to create one.

Other components of the initiative include a poster contest, a role model program, community education efforts and a speaker program. Response was immediate and continues to grow, Thompson reports, with website use up and calls coming into the crisis line.

“I’ve gotten thank-you emails, and we’ve gotten some new members on board because of the initiative ... if we can just help any family, any one kid, that’s our goal.”
We’ve come to the most important part of The Eliminate Project: fulfillment. If you made a pledge, it’s time to make your gift ... and your impact. Help protect 55 million lives from maternal and neonatal tetanus.

TheEliminateProject.org/give
SHOWCASE

BIRTHDAYS

THE FOLLOWING KIWANIS CLUBS ARE OBSERVING THEIR 25TH, 50TH, 75TH AND 100TH ANNIVERSARIES DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

100TH—1917
Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 3
Green Bay, Wisconsin, October 3
Portland, Maine, October 5
Greater Reading-Berks County, Pennsylvania, October 30

75TH—1942
Danbury, Connecticut, October 15

50TH—1967
Melbourne, Australia, October 2
Tempe-Sunrise, Arizona, October 6
Milano-Centro, Italy, October 10
Panama City, Panama, October 20
Atlantic, Iowa, October 23
Bellevue-Offutt, Nebraska, October 25
Makati, Philippines, October 25
Caseville, Michigan, October 31
Bergen-Fyllingsdalen, Norway, October 31

25TH—1992
North Buncombe, Weaverville, North Carolina, October 1
Bad Segeberg, Germany, October 14

WARM HEARTS, WARM HEADS

FLORIDA AKTION CLUB PROVIDES HATS FOR KIDS WITH CANCER.

STORY BY LYDIA JOHNSON

An assembly line forms at southeastern University’s football field in Lakeland, Florida. Volunteers place 1,000 hats on the ground, forming a chain of neon colors and bright patterns. Two hundred yards of hats stretch across the field. Each hat will be given to a patient at the Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases in Orlando for the Hats A Yard project.

Maria Frechette helped a friend through cancer treatment and saw her struggle with hair loss. As a result, Frechette wanted to give hats to children in treatment.

“They provide a couple of things: They can show their personality, and they provide warmth and comfort,” Frechette says.

The Hats A Yard project spread throughout the Florida District, including among members of the Alliance for Independence Aktion Club. An adult day training center in Lakeland, AFI teaches life skills and vocations to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Rob Crowder is a member of the North Lakeland Kiwanis Club, which sponsors the 67-member AFI Aktion Club. As Aktion Club advisor, Crowder proposed Hats A Yard to the group. They immediately accepted the service project and hoped to collect enough hats to line a football field.

“They’re the real deal,” he says.

“They like and they love helping other people.”

Aktion Club members solicited donations from their community, family and friends and raised US$493.68 to purchase hats.

“We had a lot of clients also give personal donations,” says AFI Director of Program Operations Kim Aarons. “The majority of our clients are in the Aktion Club, because they want to give back to the community.”

The Lakeland community also participated. Ladies from the Crochet Guild of America at Schalamar Creek donated 183 hand-crocheted hats. North Lakeland Kiwanis Club members contributed $400 to purchase additional hats and cover shipping costs. In three months, 1,000 hats were collected.

Aarons says the Aktion Club traditionally completes one service project a year, but its recent success may soon change that. “(The members) asked if we could do a service project every quarter now.”
Around the world, kids need Kiwanis. When you give to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, you help other Kiwanians reach them. You support the projects that Kiwanis clubs and districts can’t afford on their own, and you help fund Kiwanis family programs for all ages and abilities. You extend your impact... and change the lives of children near and far.

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MAKING THE CUT
A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE PROCESS OF CREATING A COVER FOR KIWANIS MAGAZINE.

Have you ever wondered what goes into making the cover of Kiwanis magazine—or any magazine, for that matter? Using this issue’s cover as an example, we break down the structure of a cover and share a few of the opinions that led to this month’s selection.

Managing Editor Kasey Jackson returned from a jazz festival in Zofingen, Switzerland, with a number of cover contenders (see “All that Jazz,” page 12). As you’ll read, every magazine staff member had a favorite image.

The final design won for its striking composition, vivid color and clear depiction of a jazz festival. The colors chosen for the masthead, tag line and cover lines complement elements within the image and help the cover lines to stand out. Hopefully, the final result piques your interest, encouraging you to open the magazine and find the story inside.

Do you agree with our selection? Go online to kiwanis.org/2017cover to vote for your favorite.

THE ANATOMY OF A COVER
A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Masthead** - The name of the magazine displayed in a unique typeface. This is the visual branding of the magazine to help make it recognizable. The masthead remains the same on the cover of each issue.

**Tag line** - Short, sharp description of the title’s main marketing point, “Serving the children of the world.”

**Dateline** - Month and year of publication.

**Cover lines** - Taking up about a quarter of the cover area, these words are presented in three layers: the lead-in text, the main cover line and the deck.

THE BLUES RIBBON WINNER

- “The final cover we went with wasn’t even one of the photos I included in my first edit, but I like how it turned out. It has a good energy. It’s also obvious right away that it’s a story about a jazz festival, so that’s a plus for sure.” —Kasey Jackson, managing editor

- “The single image is powerful and clear. The subject obviously is very focused on his music. And a saxophone immediately says ‘jazz.’” —Julie Saetre, assistant editor
NEW ORLEANS-STYLE MUSIC TAKES CENTER STAGE

SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

SEPTEMBER 2017

MOTION CAPTURE

• “From the curve of the paving stones, the lift of their heels, the swirl of her skirt and the breakout of two great smiles, there’s an inviting sense of movement in this image.” — Jack Brockley, publisher

• “The depiction of dancers doesn’t clearly show that the story’s about a music festival—something the other photos express better.” — Andy Austin, art director

• “I love the couple, but the background is busy and takes away from the main subjects.” — Julie Saetre, assistant editor

RED DRESS EXPRESSION

• “I was trying so hard to capture a nice image of this singer, because she was quite expressive and the crowd loved her. Shooting live entertainment becomes really tough when there’s a fog machine! I was bummed that I didn’t get a cover shot out of this.” — Kasey Jackson, managing editor

• “The woman in the red dress pops off the cover against the cool purples and blues, a potential eye-catching cover.” — Curtis Billue, assistant editor

• “The haze in the air set an apt atmosphere for a jazz festival, but it also softened the sharpness we’d prefer in a cover.” — Jack Brockley, publisher

COVERING THE BASSES

• “The happy expression on the musician’s face helps the reader experience the joy of the music festival, and the striking blue background provides strong contrast to the yellow tones of the man’s outfit.” — Andy Austin, art director

• “I love the facial expression and composition; however, his face is mostly in shadow, he’s turned away and he’s wearing mostly muted colors.” — Curtis Billue, assistant editor
WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
If your club has a success story, simply email a summary and a few photos to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org to be considered for possible future use in Kiwanis International publications.

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